**Colossians: Chapter One**

*Thankful for the Church*

Paul opens this letter to the church at Colossae thanking them for their commitment and service and assures the fellowship that he is praying for each of them.He discusses the sovereignty of Jesus Christ over all others as the Son of God and the reconciliation of sinners through grace. He closes the chapter with an affirmation of his own suffering and sacrifice; also, he proclaims that Jesus works through him as he serves the church.

1. The Greeting (1-2)
2. Thankfulness and Admiration for the Church (3-8)
3. Prayers for the Church and Assurance That God Has Prepared and Rescued Us for the Kingdom (9-14)
4. Jesus, the Image of God and Who is Above All Things (15-22)
5. Paul, Servant of the Church Proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ (23-29)

Questions for Study:

1. What is the “Mystery” (26) that Paul refers to in this chapter?

2. Paul commends the church; does this remind you of remarks he made in another letter?

3. What might be the suffering that Paul is referencing?

4. Do you see the same “formula” that we have spoken of in the greeting of this letter? What are the specific components?

Notes:

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